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432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 650, % Postmaster N.Y.C.



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February 13, 1944

Hi, Folks!-

Today is Sunday, - and here I am right on schedule!- Maybe I shouldn't start bragging until it's all finished and ready for mailing, tho, huh?

Been nibbling on some of those Rockwood "Bits" (chocolate) that were in my last package. - Ate some yesterday - and on the 2nd hand full, today, I noticed a sign on the box that they were "good to eat, too"! - Imagine my embarrassment if after eating all I had, they hadn't been good for eating! - Guess I'll just have to make sure I read all the signs + stuff, hereafter, 'cause I might

2!

just accidentally eat something
I'm not supposed to. - How
~~tragic~~ tragic!

I'm "off" today, as you can
see. - And it really feels good. - Have
had several days in ~~the~~ a row
because of weather - and could
still take a few more without
complaining! But that's not to be,
cause I'll be "on" tomorrow, without
a doubt. - In fact, can't truthfully
say why I'm not "on" today. - These
days we make several missions
in a row without a let up. -
Would like to see a few new
crews put in an appearance for
more reasons than one! -

— Just had lunch. - or at least
soup & peas for dessert. - Lately our

3!

food has hit a new low, so we all just go to the mess hall as a matter of course. Most of our eating is being done in ~~our~~ our tents in the form of eggs + toast made from bread we bring back from the meals. Once in awhile we get us a chicken and roast it in our home made oven.

Well, - gotta leave you for awhile, - see my name is on the board to test hop a new ship we just received! After we get them in, we give them a thorough inspection and then test-hop 'em to see if the ship, guns, + everything is O.K. for combat! We always do some good buzz jobs as part of it and try flying on a single engine to see how it performs. - It will be the first chance I've had to "just fly" in quite some time so I

4!

-- will probably work a lot of kinks out of my system! - Don't you want to come along for about a 2 hr. hop? - I've got 2 Cpts. going along - even got one for a copilot! - How am I doing for a 2nd Lt?

- - After supper - and a game of rummy! -

Well, here I am, back in the tent, back to my letter, and not too far to bed time! -

We flew for a little over 2 hours this afternoon - had to go out to sea for most of it because of not so good weather locally. - Everything went fine except a "runaway" turret gun shot up my tail - and everytime we would try to do a "single engine" - the oil in our one remaining engine would congeal! - It really gets cold up there.

5!
-- these days, believe me!-

Hell.- I got my pictures this afternoon.- The ones I mentioned Capt Hahn arranged for? - The only trouble is the subject! - The photography is good - everything nice - except for old "sour puss" - Wouldn't you know I would mess them up, - knowing that there would be no retakes and trying hard to have a pleasant expression! -

There's quite a story behind it all - First off, I was rushed down there and then had to wait for 2 hours after I got there! - I was mad, and when the photographer told me to look at the camera - I could just feel myself coming into the inside! -

But for the proof that I don't always look so mad, - most everyone

-6-! asks me, "what in the world are you fixing to snap at?" - Anyway - I wasn't going to send these at all - but I finally decided that you should know what I look like - and combat really isn't quite so hard on me. - Look at em for yourself but no passing around - maybe I can have another one made soon. The clothes I have on are just about what I wear most all the time, except for the tie. That's the first tie I've worn since my last trip to Tunis!

The other night I sorta renewed my hand at the photography business myself! - Borrowed all the necessary ingredients and developed two rolls of ~~un~~exposed films I had taken. - One that I took in rest camp! Didn't have any "hardening agent" so lost some few of the pictures due to too soft an emulsion and the films not being good for

?! handling. - Anyway - Am trying to
get some strip prints made now
so as soon as I have them I'll send
the pictures along with the ~~prints~~
negatives like I did before! -

Got a Vmail from Sister + Fred
today. - Sister's told of your having
visited with Pat + Sally. - Fred's - was
just a letter from Fred as only his
can be! - Know what I mean? - Oh, yes,
also got one from Lucius + his wife.

Well, again - the gang's gathering
for their before bedtime snack - so
guess I might as well give up trying
to write more and rest on my laurels. -
So - once more - bear kindly with
the pictures enclosed herewith and
hope there might be better ones in
my own negatives from my "Argus"!

Bye + I might. - Lots of Love,

Frank